

PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 09955.0047-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Frédéric FORTIN et al. ) Group Art Unit: 3733  
Application No.: 10/505,469 ) Examiner: Woodall, Nicholas W.  
Filed: August 20, 2004 )  
For: FLEXIBLE VERTEBRAL LINKING ) Confirmation No.: 4004  
DEVICE )

**Mail Stop Petition**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION**

A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on February 6, 2007. A Petition to Revive Unintentionally Abandoned Application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b) is being filed concurrently with this Reply. In accordance with §1.137(b), please enter this Reply to the Office Action mailed July 7, 2006. The period for response has been extended to January 7, 2007, by a request for extension of time (three months) and fee payment filed concurrently herewith.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** are included in this paper:

- (1) Marked-Up Substitute Specification
- (2) Clean Copy Substitute Specification

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper.

**Remarks** follow the amendment sections of this paper.